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SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offices  
1101 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska  
December 12, 1996 - 11:30 a.m.

Council Member Present:

- Roy Ewan, Chair (Telephonically)
- Ralph Lohse, Vice-Chair (Telephonically)
- Donald Kompkoff, Sr. (Telephonically)
- Gilbert Dementi
- Helga Eakon, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(On record)

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MS. EAKON: .....begin this teleconference. We do have a quorum now. At present Roy Ewan, Chair, is on line, as is Donald Kompkoff, Senior, as is Ralph Lohse. And we do have present here in the room Gilbert Dementi, so we do have a quorum, so if you go ahead and call the meeting to order, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. I'll call the meeting to order. I guess I will -- we don't have Fred, so who should do the roll call?

MS. EAKON: I'll go ahead and do the roll call, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

MS. EAKON: Okay. Roy Ewan.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: Here.

MS. EAKON: Ralph Lohse.

MR. LOHSE: Here.

MS. EAKON: Fred John, Junior.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Ben Romig.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Gary Oskolkoff.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Donald Kompkoff, Senior.

MR. KOMPKOFF: Here.

MS. EAKON: Gilbert Dementi.

MR. DEMENTI: Here.

MS. EAKON: A quorum is hereby established. I'm.....

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. We'll -- we already had the  
2 Council members identify themselves, we'll have you, I guess,  
3 introduce anybody else that's on the line, Helga.

4  
5 MS. EAKON: Okay. Yes, Mr. Chair. Currently on line  
6 we have Terry Bowyer and Gail Blundell of the University of  
7 Alaska in Fairbanks, along with Vince Mathews, Regional  
8 Coordinator in Fairbanks. Also on line are Cliff Fox and Karen  
9 Murphy with the Glacier Ranger District at Girdwood, Chugach  
10 Forest Service or National Forest. We do have Carol Wilson who  
11 is the secretary for the Chenega Bay IRA Council along  
12 with.....

13  
14 MS. KOMPKOFF: Correction, it's Carol Ann Kompkoff.

15  
16 MS. EAKON: Carol Ann Kompkoff?

17  
18 MS. KOMPKOFF: Correct.

19  
20 MS. EAKON: Okay. Thank you for the correction.  
21 Secretary for the Chenega Bay IRA Council. Larry Evanoff, a  
22 member of the Chenega Bay IRA Council, Elizabeth Andrews,  
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Juneau. Dave Saiget of  
24 Forest Service in Cordova, who is awaiting the presence of Ray  
25 Nowlin who is with Fish and Game in Cordova.

26  
27 And at the table we have Taylor Brelsford, who is the  
28 co-moderator; Joe Kolasinski, who is our Court Reporter; and as  
29 I had previously mentioned, Gilbert Dementi. Members of the  
30 regional team are Rachel Mason, anthropologist, Robert Willis,  
31 wild life biologist. In the room we have Sandy Rabinowitch,  
32 Staff Committee member National Park Service; Ida Hildebrand,  
33 Staff Committee member the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Rosa  
34 Meehan, Chief of Natural Resources Division in our office; Greg  
35 Bos; Tom Boyd, who heads the Office of Subsistence Management;  
36 Bill Knauer, our reg specialist; Bob Gerhard, who is our  
37 fisheries person from Parks Service; Clarence Summers, support  
38 staff National Park Service. I'm sorry, don't know your name.

39  
40 MS. THOMAS: I'm Lisa Thomas, I with USGSBRD, a co-  
41 operator with Gail and Terry up in Fairbanks.

42  
43 MS. EAKON: Okay. Rod Kuhn, Forest Service; Steve  
44 Zemke, Chugach National Forest; Sue Detwiler from our office  
45 and that is it. That is it, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Well, thank you very much. There's a  
48 lot of people here on the teleconference today, I guess, and  
49 welcome to the meeting. We only have one item, as I understand  
50 it, on the agenda; is that correct?

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1 MS. EAKON: That is correct. And, Mr. Chair, I did  
2 make a slight change to the agenda in the booklet that I had  
3 mailed to you a week and a half ago because yesterday we  
4 received some new materials from Ms. Blundell, which I did fax  
5 to you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, I received that. I guess the  
8 others have too.

9  
10 MS. EAKON: Except Ralph Lohse has not and I had asked  
11 Gail if she would introduce, very briefly, the highlights of  
12 the information in the letter that she had faxed. And then  
13 after the staff analysis any public comments, I will summarize  
14 the two letters we got regarding the Special Action. And  
15 that's about the only changes, Mr. Chair, so we can go ahead  
16 and proceed.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Go ahead, Gail, if you're  
19 there. Gail Blundell.

20  
21 MS. BLUNDELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to,  
22 first of all, thank all of you for beginning this meeting and  
23 inviting us to participate. Briefly, I'll review just the  
24 highlights of the letter that was sent to you late, and I  
25 apologize for your receiving it late.

26  
27 Our 1996 data collected from the area within the  
28 proposed closure suggests that otters are being exposed to  
29 pollutants. Throughout much of the natural range in the United  
30 States river otter population has been decimated and they have  
31 suggested that environmental pollutants are the cause of that  
32 decline in population. Captive studies of mink have  
33 demonstrated that complete reproductive failure can occur with  
34 exposure to environmental pollutants. Although we don't have  
35 such research on captive river otters we do have cause for  
36 worry about the reproductive potential for river otters  
37 residing in Prince William Sound.

38  
39 One of the samples that we analyzed over, collected  
40 this last spring and summer was a small (phone cut out) tissue  
41 punch taken from the skin which we was analyzed for enzyme  
42 P-450, which is elevated in response to the exposure to  
43 hydrocarbons, which are contained, in among other things,  
44 environmental pollutants, such as oil. We have significantly  
45 higher levels of these P-450 enzymes in the otters residing in  
46 the oiled area. Additionally we had elevated haptoglobin  
47 levels which is a blood perfume that is elevated in response to  
48 stress, be it from tissue injury, disease, inflammation or  
49 exposure to pollutants. Thus this give us a potential cause,  
50 environmental pollutants, and a response, a stress response in

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1 otters. This gives us concern about whether these otters are  
2 able to reproduce sufficiently to sustain harvest over the long  
3 run and thus be (phone cut out) maintain viability for a  
4 subsistence harvest.

5  
6 In order to get at what's happening in the oiled  
7 populations we need to develop an accurate population estimate,  
8 which is what we'll be working on next year and probably  
9 another year after that. Because otters occur in low density,  
10 removal of just a few individuals can cause some difficulty in  
11 analyzing the results.

12  
13 Then on item E, I believe it is, Terry Bowyer will  
14 address some of those problems.

15  
16 We recognize the problems with this closure and we  
17 appreciate your considering the matter. What we are proposing,  
18 however, is the closure of a very small area. The only village  
19 that is close to there is Chenega and we have the support of  
20 the Chenega IRA Council and the Chenega Corporation for this  
21 closure. And we are proposing it for a short amount of time so  
22 that we can get better population estimates and, therefore,  
23 have a better idea about long term viability of a population,  
24 which should ensure continued subsistence harvest for  
25 generations to come. These population estimates can be used  
26 not only locally in our area but should be useful throughout  
27 Alaska.

28  
29 And that, essentially, is the letter.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thank you, Gail. Any  
32 questions from anyone? If not, we'll go on, I guess, to the  
33 staff analysis and Robert Willis. Robert, you there?

34  
35 MR. WILLIS: I'm here. Thank you, Roy, good morning.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Good morning.

38  
39 MR. WILLIS: Staff first became aware of this situation  
40 about this time last year when we got a request from what was  
41 then the National Biological Service and currently USGS, about  
42 the proposed closure. In November of last year they requested  
43 a closure on State and private lands from the Alaska Department  
44 of Fish and Game. That closure was granted and the area in  
45 question was closed by emergency order on November the 16th of  
46 last year.

47  
48 Shortly after that they submitted the same request to  
49 us. When we looked into it, we looked to see who was trapping  
50 there and how many otters had been taken and found that since

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1 the original village of Chenega was destroyed by the 1964  
2 earthquake there had been zero subsistence use in that area.  
3 The village was relocated on the south end of Evans Island some  
4 distance away. Initially the -- prior to the earthquake the  
5 community had used quite a few river otters and mink out of  
6 that area, done considerable trapping in there, but after the  
7 village was relocated we found no evidence that they had gone  
8 back into that area to trap.

9  
10 The only otters taken in that area during the late '80s  
11 and early '90s were taken by three trappers, one from  
12 Anchorage, one from Palmer and one from Kenai all of which are  
13 non-rural areas. In over 30 years there have been no reports  
14 of any subsistence take of otters in the area.

15  
16 For those reasons we found no biological reason not to  
17 close the area and also no indication that we would be creating  
18 a problem for any subsistence users by the closure. At that  
19 time we ran into a procedural problem in that under regulation  
20 there's not a mechanism by which an area can be closed to  
21 subsistence use for purposes of a research project. We're  
22 still wrestling with that issue to some degree and in the year  
23 that's passed since that time there have been two trappers who  
24 have gone into the area, one who is a resident of Maine Bay,  
25 works at the hatchery, trapped five otters. And another  
26 individual from Cordova trapped one otter. Don't know if  
27 that's had any effect on the research project as yet. Those  
28 would be considered subsistence take of otters but this was, as  
29 I say, the first time anyone had gone in there from a  
30 subsistence area in over 30 years.

31  
32 The regional team had discussed the issue of closing  
33 the area for research purposes and one of the concerns raised  
34 was whether or not this would set a precedent for other areas.  
35 It was our feeling, Helga, Rachel and I, that situations like  
36 this should be looked at on a case by case basis. The reason  
37 being that, in essence, is where a research project can be  
38 conducted which may have benefits to the subsistence user as  
39 well as everyone else concerned and doesn't impact the  
40 subsistence community then it seems there would be no reason  
41 for that project not to go forward.

42  
43 On the other hand in a situation where a community was  
44 regularly using an area and the resources from that area  
45 contributed to their annual cycle or harvest we feel like the  
46 researcher should probably go and look for another study area  
47 where they would not impact subsistence users.

48  
49 That's pretty much where we stand at this time. The  
50 problem, of course, with this particular project even a few

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1 otters taken out of there, which would not have significant  
2 impact on anyone's income, could have a devastating effect on  
3 results of the research and that's why we've had so much  
4 trouble develop over so few otters.

5  
6 I believe that's all I have, Roy.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thank you, Robert. Any  
9 comments or questions from the Council members?

10  
11 MS. EAKON: Excuse me. Before we do that, Roy, this is  
12 Helga, someone just came on line, could that person identify  
13 himself? Was that Fred, Ben or Gary? I guess not, sorry about  
14 that.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah, I was just going to say if  
17 there's no questions. If you do have questions or comments  
18 identify yourself for the record, so that we know who's  
19 talking, it's not that easy to identify your voice.

20  
21 I have a question about the otters. Do they kind of  
22 migrate to the area sometimes, I mean -- or upstream away from  
23 the area? I don't understand that. I know that in the  
24 Interior here we see land otter that come up the river and move  
25 along the river and up into the lakes. I don't know what --  
26 how it is along the coast there.

27  
28 MS. BLUNDELL: There (indiscernible) and come from  
29 anywhere from 20 to 40 kilometers of coast line. You may see  
30 slight changes in the size of the home range with the season  
31 but essentially they remain in the same places.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Okay. If there's no  
34 comments or questions, we'll move on to public comment then.

35  
36 MS. EAKON: Yes, Chair.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: The floor is open for public comment,  
39 identify yourself so the listeners can know who's talking.  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MS. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is Carol Ann Kompkoff  
43 from Chenega speaking.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right.

46  
47 MS. KOMPKOFF: Chenega Corporation doesn't have any  
48 objection to the closure. As a matter of fact a letter on  
49 December 6th was sent to the Federal Subsistence Board (phone  
50 cut out) so we can go ahead and allow this closure and not set a

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1 precedent for closing public lands for research purposes.  
2 (Phone cuts out).....

3

4 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. That sounds.....

5

6 MS. KOMPKOFF: .....but not (phone cut out) special  
7 action as a precedent. We need to know the effects of the oil  
8 spills on our subsistence foods and resources over here in  
9 Prince William Sound. Thank you very much.

10

11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Anybody else wants to make  
12 a comment on this topic here. Talking about river otter  
13 trapping closure in portion of Unit 6(D). This is a Special  
14 Request.

15

16 MS. ANDREWS: Is this just for public comments at this  
17 time or agencies?

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I guess, as far as I understand it,  
20 it's anybody, I guess. Just identify yourself.

21

22 MS. ANDREWS: Yes, this is Elizabeth Andrews with the  
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I have a short comment.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right.

26

27 MS. ANDREWS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, the Department  
28 of Fish and Game supports this closure also. It's consistent  
29 with our own emergency order closure which we issued in  
30 September. We understand that it is necessary to determine if  
31 the otters are recovering from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. We  
32 also believe that the closure of this trapping season is  
33 important for the successful completion of the research and  
34 also we understand that, as with our own emergency order  
35 closure, these are to be reviewed on a case by case basis as  
36 they might apply for research purposes.

37

38 And that's all we have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you very much. Any other  
41 comments?

42

43 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chairman, Don Kompkoff, Chenega.

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, go ahead, Donald.

46

47 MR. KOMPKOFF: We also have a letter to Gail and it  
48 reads that Chenega Bay residents do not object to the closure  
49 of river otters as described in your letter of October 28th,  
50 1996 and it says that I've been busy in Anchorage with meetings



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1 on the day she called and noted that the closure was very  
2 important to the study.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Donald. Any other comment.

7

8 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chairman, Ralph Lohse here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Hi, Ralph. Go ahead.

11

12 MR. LOHSE: How are you doing, Roy?

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, pretty good.

15

16 MR. LOHSE: I contacted the main subsistence trapper  
17 out of Cordova that's actually traps otters on the Sound and  
18 just to question him whether he traps that area, whether it  
19 would be a hardship for him or anything like that. And his  
20 comment was, no, it wouldn't be a hardship for him, he has  
21 taken an occasional otter in that direction, but had no  
22 intention of going that way this winter. He'll be trapping  
23 this end of the Sound and that he thought it was important for  
24 research purposes, too, so he did not object to the closure at  
25 all.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any other comments? Want  
28 to go ahead, Helga, and go into your comments and the written  
29 comments and if anybody else has comments we'll continue the  
30 comments after that. Go ahead, Helga.

31

32 MS. EAKON: Okay. The only two written comments we got  
33 were first the one that Donald Kompkoff, Senior just referred  
34 to, and that was his letter on behalf of the Chenega Bay IRA  
35 Council stating that Chenega Bay residents do not object to the  
36 proposed closure. And second of all, the letter from Chenega  
37 Corporation signed by Charles W. Totemoff, President and CEO  
38 stating that the Chenega Corporation supports the 1997 Federal  
39 subsistence closure. And that this proposal is intended to  
40 protect an ongoing study headed by Gail Blundell. And that  
41 letter was dated December 6th, 1996.

42

43 And that is all, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Helga. Any other public  
46 comment?

47

48 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, Tom Boyd would like an  
49 opportunity to comment.

50

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1           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Hi, Tom, you're sure welcome to  
2 comment, go ahead.

3  
4           MR. BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to add  
5 for purposes of clarification so that everyone understood the  
6 action that we were taking today as that we're -- what you have  
7 before you is a request for what we would call a temporary  
8 closure so any action you take would affect -- to close that  
9 would affect this year or this season only. You have a  
10 proposal in your proposal booklet for next year, the '97/98  
11 season. This will come before you in February when the Council  
12 meets again and before the Board in April when they meet for  
13 the next year, '97/98. But I think any discussion today would  
14 certainly carry forward to your meeting as well as the Board  
15 meeting. But I just wanted to make that clear.

16  
17           I also wanted to underscore that the Office of  
18 Subsistence Management does not look at this as a precedent  
19 setting issue, that we would certainly -- it's actually the  
20 very first time, I think, we've ever addressed the issue of  
21 research and so we're kind of plowing new ground here. But we  
22 don't view this as a precedent setting issue at all, we would  
23 review any such request on a case by case basis, always seeking  
24 to put it before the Council in an open process as outlined in  
25 our regulations or at least get as much public involvement as  
26 possible.

27  
28           So I've discussed this with legal counsel as well and  
29 they share the same view. So I think we're on pretty solid  
30 ground there. That's all I have to add, Mr. Chair.

31  
32           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Tom. If there are no other  
33 public comments, we'll go on down to the agencies comment. Are  
34 there agencies that want to comment? We did have several  
35 already, I understand, but are there others?

36  
37           MS. EAKON: Yes, Mr. Chair, Rod Kuhn from Forest  
38 Service is going to comment.

39  
40           CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Rod, how you doing?

41  
42           MR. KUHN: Just great, Roy, good to talk to you. Wish  
43 you were here. I'd like to point out one thing we, the Forest  
44 Service and landowner in the area, have concern over and that  
45 is that the purpose for the closure is, in our view, needs to  
46 be very highly directly tied to subsistence uses, so to the  
47 degree that the Regional Advisory Council addresses the need  
48 for this closure to benefit subsistence uses in the area, it  
49 would make us, as an agency, feel a lot more comfortable in  
50 this action.

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1           So that's basically all I wanted to say was that from  
2 the Forest Service concern our most important issue here is  
3 that any action be tied to the benefits to the subsistence uses  
4 and users.

5  
6           CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thank you very much, Rod.  
7 Any other agency want to comment? The State? Was that the  
8 official comment from the State a little while ago?

9  
10          MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chair, this is Elizabeth Andrews.  
11 Yes, it was.

12  
13          CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Are there no other State members  
14 that want to comment?

15  
16          MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, Sandy Rabinowitch the Staff  
17 Committee member from the National Park Service would like to  
18 comment.

19  
20          CHAIRMAN EWAN: Hi, Sandy.

21  
22          MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. Good afternoon, I  
23 guess. I speak not so much as representative of the Park  
24 Service but as somebody who's particular familiar with the Oil  
25 Spill Restoration Plan that both the Department of Interior and  
26 the Department of Agriculture, and for that matter the State of  
27 Alaska signed and approved in 1985. I simply want to make the  
28 comment that I believe this proposal is consistent with that  
29 plan and that there are specifically references to river otters  
30 on pages 51 of that plan. I won't read a bunch of this into  
31 the record because it would be pretty boring. And also on  
32 Appendix A-5, which talks about injury. And I think that the  
33 information in this plan, copies of this can be, you know, made  
34 and added to the -- the pages can be made and added to the  
35 record. I think it's consistent with several of the comments  
36 about not setting a precedent here, so I think it helps out in  
37 that regard.

38  
39          That's all.

40  
41          CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thank you very much. Any  
42 other comments from the agencies? If not, we'll go on into  
43 the.....

44  
45          MS. EAKON: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, Ida Hildebrand, Staff  
46 Committee member for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

47  
48          CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. What was the name?

49  
50          MS. EAKON: Ida Hildebrand.

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1           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Ida, thank you for coming to the  
2 meeting. You're on.

3  
4           MS. HILDEBRAND: Hi. I just wanted to say that the BIA  
5 is in agreement that if it does not set a precedent and the  
6 subsistence users are in agreement with the closure that the  
7 Bureau would also support this closure.

8  
9           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you very much.

10  
11          MS. HILDEBRAND: You're welcome.

12  
13          CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other comments? If not, we'll go  
14 to the comment of the originator of the proposal, University of  
15 Alaska, Fairbanks. I don't know who is going to be first  
16 there. Just identify yourself and go ahead.

17  
18          MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this is Terry  
19 Bowyer. And what I'd like to do is just briefly run through  
20 the justification for our request. And, again, we wish to set  
21 no precedence relative to research, only the closure for this  
22 project.

23  
24          We believe that otters are an important subsistence  
25 resource but perhaps, more importantly, a very useful indicator  
26 for animals and people that use fish in the intertidal and  
27 subtidal areas that were damaged by oil. And we believe some  
28 of our findings have important ramifications for other people  
29 and animals.

30  
31          Our previous research showed that river otters were not  
32 killed in large numbers initially by the oil spill, like sea  
33 otters were, but rather they continued to live in oiled areas  
34 and that we began to see long term effects of this oil  
35 accumulating in the otters, so that there were chronic longer  
36 term detriments to the otter population. It's been seven years  
37 since the spill and we were astounded to find this year that  
38 there are effects from hydrocarbons on river otters in the  
39 oiled area, as evidenced from P-450 enzymes and the blood  
40 haptoglobins. And the P-450 indicates exposure and the  
41 haptoglobin indicates damage.

42  
43          We believe there are important gains in scientific  
44 knowledge relative to wildlife conservation of otters that will  
45 emanate from our research and allow the wiser use of otters by  
46 subsistence users and we hope and it is our design that any  
47 effects on subsistence use would be minimal and short term.  
48 And that is to say it should just involve a very slight affect  
49 on people's use of otter, should they desire to do so.

50

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1           We agree with comments made by Chenega that if there  
2 had been objection to that that we indeed should have shifted  
3 our study area elsewhere and found another place to do research  
4 and we're grateful for permission to conduct our research on  
5 their lands.

6  
7           There is great potential damage from trapping to our  
8 study in that we have otters that are implanted with telemetry  
9 equipment and just the loss of a few individuals, as  
10 demonstrated in some of our previous publications, of those  
11 telemetered otters can prevent us from making a valid  
12 population estimate and that's because otter densities are so  
13 low, even where they occur at natural abundances. And also the  
14 loss of those individuals would prevent us from more fully  
15 understanding the home range and the distribution of otters and  
16 their habitat use, which can be important for subsistence use.

17  
18           Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

19  
20           CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thank you. Anybody else  
21 from the university want to speak here?

22  
23           MS. BLUNDELL: No, I think that covers it, thank you.

24  
25           CHAIRMAN EWAN: I do have a question for anybody. Do  
26 we have an idea of the population of the area we're talking  
27 about? I'm going through the letter and other things that  
28 (phone cut out) out, I don't see any.....

29  
30           MS. BLUNDELL: At this point we do not. That's a major  
31 priority for our next field.....

32  
33           CHAIRMAN EWAN: How about just a ball park figure, what  
34 are we talking about anyway? I mean in an area of that size?

35  
36           MR. BOWYER: About 30 to 40 animals per 100 kilometers  
37 of shoreline was what we estimated for otter populations  
38 elsewhere in Prince William Sound that were not affected by  
39 oil.

40  
41           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Very good. We're down to the  
42 Regional Council discussion. Any comments, questions from the  
43 Regional Council members?

44  
45           MR. LOHSE: Roy.

46  
47           CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

48  
49           MR. LOHSE: Ralph Lohse here.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Um-hum.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Just the comment that I made before is  
4 that, you know, the main subsistence individual in town that  
5 actually traps otters supports it and so as a Regional Council  
6 member from Cordova I would support the closure also.

7

8 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other comments? Just for your  
9 information, I also support the proposal, I believe it has some  
10 benefit, long term benefit, as long as it doesn't set a  
11 precedent for other areas where you close off trapping or  
12 hunting or anything of animals for study. I just had that  
13 concern and that's been addressed several times.

14

15 Any other Council member want to comment or.....

16

17 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

20

21 MR. KOMPKOFF: Don Kompkoff (phone cut out).....

22

23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, Don

24

25 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes, I just want to say that on my  
26 observing the land otters, sometime there is like 16 in one  
27 family, one land otter family in the dens I've noticed up to 16  
28 and eight -- usually eight in one litter.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Is that it?

31

32 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Thanks for the information.  
35 I know up river and on the lakes there are a lot less than what  
36 you're saying, they're probably -- that's a high. Is there a  
37 biologist around that could tell us what the average litter is  
38 and so on?

39

40 MR. BOWYER: If you look at the number of times an  
41 otter ovulates it ranges about between two and eight. But the  
42 actually kits in the den, at least in the areas where we have  
43 been are much smaller, two or three. But we have seen very  
44 large groups of otters, up to 18 animals in a single group on  
45 the coast and so that's consistent with that information.

46

47 MS. BLUNDELL: We did see up to five telemetered  
48 individuals -- or hear up to five telemetered individuals  
49 together in the Jackpot Bay area this summer.

50

0015

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you for that information. Any  
2 other comments from the Council members?

3  
4 MR. DEMENTI: Roy.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

7  
8 MR. DEMENTI: This is Gilbert Dementi.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, Gilbert.

11  
12 MR. DEMENTI: I'm with you also, I support the closure.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. I guess we're about  
15 prepared for action then. I guess, Helga, we want a motion, is  
16 that how (phone cut out) to forward to the Federal Subsistence  
17 Board; is that correct?

18  
19 MS. EAKON: Yes, that is correct, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'll entertain a motion now to support  
22 this closure.

23  
24 MR. LOHSE: I so move, Roy. Ralph Lohse.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph Lohse moved that we support this  
27 closure of the river otter trapping in portion of Unit 6, is it  
28 D? Is there a second?

29  
30 MR. DEMENTI: Second, Gilbert.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Gilbert Dementi seconded it. Any  
33 further discussion on the motion?

34  
35 MR. KOMPKOFF: Question.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Question is called for, all in favor  
38 say aye. And would you just do roll call, Helga, that way  
39 we'll know who voted.

40  
41 MS. EAKON: Okay. Roy Ewan.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

44  
45 MS. EAKON: Ralph Lohse.

46  
47 MR. LOHSE: Yes.

48  
49 MS. EAKON: Don Kompkoff.

50

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1 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes.

2

3 MS. EAKON: Gilbert Dementi.

4

5 MR. DEMENTI: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That unanimous vote. All opposed --  
8 there's nobody opposed. That's it, I guess, huh, Helga?

9

10 MS. EAKON: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you everybody. And I'll  
13 entertain a motion to adjourn.

14

15 MR. KOMPKOFF: Move to adjourn.

16

17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Who is this?

18

19 MR. KOMPKOFF: Don.

20

21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Is there a second?

22

23 MR. DEMENTI: Second, Gilbert.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Motion and second. All in  
26 favor say aye. We'll take a voice vote this time.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried.

35

36 MS. EAKON: All right.

37

38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Well done, thank you much.

39

40 MS. EAKON: This is Helga, thank you, everyone for  
41 coming on line, thank you very much. Bye.

42

43 MR. BOWYER: Thank you from Fairbanks, bye.

44

45 MS. BLUNDELL: Bye. Thank you.

46

47 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

48

49 \* \* \* \* \*

50



0017

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 ) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the  
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby  
9 certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 16 contain  
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA  
13 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING, taken  
14 electronically by me on the 12th day of December, 1996,  
15 beginning at the hour of 11:30 o'clock a.m. at the Offices of  
16 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1101 E. Tudor Road,  
17 Anchorage, Alaska;

18

19 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
20 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to  
21 the best of my knowledge and ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
24 interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of December,  
27 1996.

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33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Joseph P. Kolasinski  
35 Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00

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